

# ROAD 31 WINE CO.

*grain-inducing pinot*

Dear Truckers (Spring 2025 release):

Greetings from Napa, where the rain is hitting the ground like Patrick Mahomes in the backfield at the Super Bowl. No, I haven't quite gotten over that abysmal performance by the hometown team.

We are indeed enjoying a second wet winter in a row. It's a trend! Admittedly, I check the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index way more often than is healthy (even more than my Instagram feed). Though my motivation isn't entirely enological—it's also tied to ski conditions. Truth be told, the skiing has been kinda meh (rain instead of snow in the mountains). But boy, are things looking good for this upcoming winegrowing season. The cover crop is thriving, the vines are pruned yet still dormant (which keeps them safe from frost), and we're eagerly anticipating the sun, warmth, and bud break. It's always reassuring to have full reservoirs for whatever Mother Nature throws at us this summer.

Speaking of which, I so wish we could have diverted some of this rain to Los Angeles a few months ago. Hang tough, Palisades Truckers (there are a remarkably large number of you...).

Ok, let's talk wine. I am most excited to share with you the 2023 Road 31 Carneros Napa Valley Pinot Noir. Don't let its delicate and pretty nature fool you—it's got the goods. Think Natalie Portman with Thor's hammer behind her back.

I love the nose: rose, dark fruit, and a hint of leather (yup, leather) that reminds me of the vintage seats in a classic Broadway theater. A bright soprano whisper of chocolate too—one of my favorite foods (people overlook the emotional nutritional value of chocolate). The mouthfeel? It's a live wire. Strong, lovely acidity. Juicy, if you will. Super clean dark red fruit on the mid-palate, absolutely begging to join your meal. Then comes an extended finish with just the right amount of heat mixed with the most elegant of vanilla notes.

If past vintages (that fermented and tasted this same way early on) are any indicator, this wine will go the distance in your cellar for a decade or more. Not that you're obligated to wait that long.

Last year's experiment—shipping as orders came in rather than waiting to send everything at once—was a roaring success, so I'm sticking with that from now on. Sorry it took me so long to get with the times. Of course, you can always request a later ship date at checkout. I still cover shipping on a case (12 bottles) or more. The order window will be open through April 6. As always, while I try to allocate carefully, it's ultimately first come, first served. So don't dally.

Perhaps you're celebrating a Philadelphia Eagles win (or celebrating a Chiefs loss, as many of you seem inclined to do). Or maybe you're an actual Chiefs fan (or a Democrat?) looking to take the edge off a tough loss. Or maybe, just maybe, you and yours simply need a killer glass of red wine while you sit on the couch on a rainy day.

Regardless, I've got you covered. Order away.

*Kent F*

Kent Fortner (Winecrafter/Truck-Owner/King of the Road)



NAPA VALLEY

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